Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 31, lines 10-28 as follows:

Genotyping. Tail snips were obtained from P3-4 pups and used for genotyping, as previously described (Singh, 2000). Briefly, tissues were digested with Proteinase K at 56°C for 90 minutes, followed by a 99°C incubation for 10 minutes. The samples were then vortexed vigorously and insoluble material pelleted in a microfuge. Supernatants were used in a PCR reaction that utilized one primer pair (primer 1: 5'-CGG TCT ACG GCC AGT CGG GCA TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:1); primer 2: 5'-GTA GAA GGC GGG AGG GCC GGT GTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:2)) for the ER-α gene product (product size = 239 base pairs (bp)), and one primer pair (primer 2 from above with NEO primer: 5'-GCT GAC CGC TTC CTC GTG CTT TAC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3)) for the neomycin insert-containing gene product (product size = 790 bp). The PCR program was carried out as follows: 1 cycle at 94°C for 3 minutes, 30 cycles of 94°C for 45 seconds, 62°C for 1 minute, 72°C for 1 minute 40 seconds, followed by a final extension cycle of 72°C for 7 minutes. Products were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis. Wild-type animals revealed that smaller 239 bp band, homozygous knockouts (ERKO) showed the larger 790 bp band, and heterozygotes displayed both bands.